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General and complete disarmament: taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations

Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.41

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 8, 10, 11, 13 and 14 of draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.41, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide to convene a United Nations conference in 2017 to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination;

(b) Decide that the conference shall convene in New York, under the rules of procedure of the Assembly unless otherwise agreed by the conference, from 27 to 31 March and from 15 June to 7 July 2017, with the participation and contribution of international organizations and civil society representatives;

(c) Decide that the conference will hold a one-day organizational session in New York as soon as possible;

(d) Decide that the conference shall submit a report on its progress to the Assembly at its seventy-second session, which will assess the progress made in the negotiations and decide the way forward;

(e) Request the Secretary-General to provide the support necessary to convene the conference and to transmit the report of the conference to the Conference on

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Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission and to the United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament foreseen in paragraph 6 of resolution 68/32.

II. Relationship of the proposed requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2016-2017 and to the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

2. The requested activities referred to in the draft resolution relate to programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and programme 3, Disarmament, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2016-2017 (see A/69/6/Rev.1) and section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and section 4, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (A/70/6 (Sect. 2) and A/70/6 (Sect. 4), respectively).

III. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

3. Pursuant to the request contained in operative paragraphs 8, 10 and 11 of the draft resolution, it is envisaged that the United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination, would hold a total of 42 meetings (21 days) in New York with interpretation in all six languages, which would constitute an addition to the meetings workload for the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in 2017. This would entail additional requirements for meetings services in the amount of $252,000. The details of the meetings are as follows:

(a) One-day organizational meeting consisting of 2 meetings in early 2017;

(b) Five-day first session consisting of 10 meetings from 27 to 31 March 2017;

(c) Fifteen-day second session consisting of 30 meetings from 15 June to 7 July 2017.

4. Furthermore, the request for documentation contained in operative paragraphs 8, 10, 13 and 14 of the draft resolution would constitute an addition to the documentation workload for the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of 12 pre-session documents (total of 31,800 words), 18 in-session documents (total of 47,700 words) and 2 post-session documents (total of 21,400 words), to be issued in all six languages in 2017. This would entail additional requirements for documentation services in the amount of $440,600.

5. Pursuant to operative paragraph 14 of the draft resolution, the Office for Disarmament Affairs would provide the substantive services necessary for the convening of the conference. All Member States would be encouraged to participate in the conference. The conference would also be convened with the participation and contribution of international organizations and civil society representatives.

IV. Modifications required in the programme of work and the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

6. To meet the provisions of the draft resolution, the outputs under subprogramme 2 of section 4, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 would need to be amended in respect of the information and outreach activities during the implementation of the budget, as follows:

Paragraph 4.46

Under "(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget and extrabudgetary)", add:

"(vii) United Nations conference on a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings (42);

b. Parliamentary documentation: working papers (30); report of the conference (1);"

V. Financial implications of the proposals

7. Additional conference-servicing resource requirements in the amount of $692,600 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, would be required under the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 to implement the additional workload. The details of these additional one-time resource requirements are provided in the table below.

(United States dollars)

Conference-servicing resource	*Amount*
Interpretation	252 000
Pre-session documentation	139 000
In-session documentation	207 600
Post-session documentation	94 000
Total	**692 600**

VI. Potential for absorption during the biennium 2016-2017

8. No provisions have been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 for the implementation of the activities requested in operative paragraphs 8, 10, 11, 13 and 14 of the draft resolution. It is not possible at present to identify activities within the relevant sections of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium. It is therefore necessary that the additional one-time resource requirements in the amount of $692,600 be provided through an additional appropriation for the biennium 2016-2017.

VII. Contingency fund

9. Under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget.

VIII. Conclusion and action required of the General Assembly

10. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.41, additional resource requirements in the amount of $692,600 would arise under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017. The amount of $692,600 would require an additional appropriation for the biennium 2016-2017 to be approved by the Assembly and, as such, would represent a charge against the contingency fund.**